

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 PM-09 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ WE: CKJOHNSON: CEK

5/16/73; EXT: 20381

APPROVED BY EUR - MR STABLER

OASD( PA) PLANS & PROGRAMS

OSD/ ISA - MR LLOYD

COLONEL EDWARDS

PM - COLONEL FLEMMINGS

EUR/ RPM - COLONEL BODENHAMMER

EUR/ WE - MR VINE

----- 082718

P R 162115 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINSUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T STATE 093610

E. O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PROJECT FENDER

1. IN ACCEDING TO OUR REQUEST TO STATION NATO AIRBORNE  
BATTALION COMBAT TEAM AT VICENZA, THE GOI STIPULATED THAT  
THERE BE NO REPEAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STATIONING AND  
NO PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE ARRIVAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE UNIT.  
SINCE THE GOI IS SO CONCERNED THAT THE ENTIRE PROCESS BE  
ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PUBLICITY OR PUBLIC NOTICE, THE  
MOVES WILL THUS BE IN PHASES TO ACHIEVE LOW VISIBILITY.

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2. HOWEVER, DURING ANDREOTTI VISIT TO WASHINGTON, ITALIAN OFFICIALS AGREED THAT CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE BE JOINTLY PREPARED IN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENT OF INQUIRIES.

3. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED CONTINGENT PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUESTION: WHAT NEW MILITARY UNIT IS BEING LOCATED AT VICENZA?

ANSWER: AS PART OF A ROUTINE DISPOSITION OF NATO-COMMITTED FORCES, AN AIRBORNE BATTALION, WHICH FORMS PART OF NATO'S ALLIED MOBILE FORCE, IS BEING STATIONED AT CAMP EDERLE IN VICENZA, WHICH ALREADY HOUSES NATO-COMMITTED UNITS, TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S QUICK RESPONSE CAPABILITY IN THE SOUTHERN NATO REGION.

QUESTION: IS IT A U. S. UNIT?

ANSWER: THEY ARE AMERICAN TROOPS COMMITTED TO NATO.

QUESTION: HOW MANY MEN ARE INVOLVED AND HOW ARE THEY EQUIPPED?

ANSWER: AS I MENTIONED, THE UNIT INVOLVED IS A BATTALION WHICH CONSISTS OF ABOUT 1200 MEN. WHEN THE MOVE IS COMPLETED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AT CAMP EDERLE WILL BE BACK CLOSE TO ITS LEVEL OF THREE YEARS AGO. WE DO NOT GIVE OUT INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT.

4. IF EMBASSY CONCURS IN FOREGOING, REQUEST YOU DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OBTAIN GOI CONCURRENCE.

5. DEFENSE CONCURS. RUSH

SECRET  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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NATO  
ROME  
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